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# Letter dated 3 August 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the attached copies, in English and French, of a statement issued on 31 July by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the recent developments in Myanmar.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Ernst **Sucharipa**
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

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# Annex

[Original: English and French]

## Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the recent developments in Myanmar

The European Union strongly deplores the actions of the authorities of Myanmar to hinder the free movement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Furthermore, the European Union condemns the decision of the authorities of Myanmar to force her to return to Yangon after she had spent six days in her car in protest against the authorities of Myanmar, which deprived her of the possibility to take part in a meeting with members of the National League for Democracy. The European Union considers this to be an unacceptable violation of her rights of free movement and association. Furthermore, this decision has only increased the isolation of the Government and will have further negative repercussions on the international reputation of the authorities in Yangon.

The European Union remains concerned about the health and safety of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The European Union calls upon the authorities in Myanmar to allow Daw Aung San Suu Kyi free movement and expresses its hope that the Government of Myanmar will urgently take all necessary steps to start a meaningful dialogue between the Government and the opposition, in particular the National League for Democracy and representatives of ethnic minorities. As a first step, Parliament should be convened as soon as possible. Meanwhile international pressure on Myanmar should be maintained.

The Central and Eastern European countries and Cyprus associated with the European Union and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.